

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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UNCLAS. JULY 26. LOCAL PRESS COVERED PROMINENTLY TWO NEW
OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON FRASER HEARINGS AND LOZANO TESTIMONY.
NEWS ITEM ON PAGE 3, TOP CIRCULATION DIARIO DE HOY, FEATURES
CRITICISM OF GEN. ALBERTO MEDRAO OF FOMIN MARTINEZ'
ASSERTIONS, COVERED REFTEL. MEDRANO QUOTED SAYING, "I WAS VERY
SURPRISED AT THE STATEMENTS MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER MARTINEZ
IN REFUTING WHAT EX-U.S. AMBASSADOR IGNACIO LOZANO SAID BEFORE
AT U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE (SIC)."

DESPITE THE FACT THAT EX-AMBASSADOR LOZANO'S STATEMENTS--AS
CHARGE D'AFFAIRS EARL LUBENSKY ALREADY POINTED OUT--DO NOT
REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL THINKING OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THEY HAVE
WITHOUT DOUBT CASUED GRAVE DAMAGE TO THE INTERNATIONAL IMAGE
OF THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL
FORUM IN WHICH THEY WERE MADE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF WIDEW NEWS
COVERAGE THEY WERE GIVEN AROUND THE WORLD.

THAT IS WHY I THINK THAT EX-AMBASSADOR LOZANO'S STATEMENTS
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SHOULD HAVE BEEN REFUTED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER SERIOUSLY
AND RESPONSIBLY, WITHOUT USING AD HOMINEM RHETORIC SUCH AS CAL-
LING HIM A "POPULIST POLITICIAN" WHO "WANTED TO EARN POINTS,"
WHICH IS IN ITSELF INELEGANT AND INAPPROPRIATE FOR USE BY
THOSE SAME "FINE" AMBASSADORS WHOM OUR FOREIGN MINSTER MISSES
SO MUCH. WHAT WILL ENVOYS PRESENTLY ACCREDITED HERE THINK
OF INSULTS THEY MIGHT DRAW AFTER THEY ARE GONE?

I BELIEVE I RECALL THAT IN A RECENT SPEECH MINISTER MARTINEZ ADMITTED THAT HE WAS A BIT "DISCONNECTED" FROM NATIONAL AFFAIRS AFTER SERVING IN OUR FOREIGN SERVICE SO MANY YEARS. PERHAPS THIS EXPLAINS HIS LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW CREATING THE SALVADORAN INSTITUTE OF AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION AND THE FIRST AGRARIAN REFORM PROJECT, WHICH WERE INTRODUCED IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 19, 1976, AFTER PRESIDENT CALOS HUMBERTO ROMERO HAD ALREADY LEFT THE MOLINA GOVERNMENT.

IF ONE MUST ASSIGN SOME POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THESE AMENDMENTS, IT WOULD FALL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF EX-PRESIDENT MOLINA; NONETHELESS, IN MY JUDGEMENT, THE CHANGES IN THOSE LAWS WERE AMPLY JUSTIFIED AND BACKED LEGALLY BY METICULOUS STUDIES PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS BY DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC FIGURES. I ALSO THINK THAT GIVEN THE NATIONAL IMPACT OF WHATEVER AGRARIAN REFORM LAW, IT MUST NOT BE HASTILY PASSED, BUT RATHER PUT TOGETHER WITH UTMOST CARE, LISTENING TO ALL GROUPS INVOLVED, IN ORDER TO BE TRULY OPERATIVE AND BENEFICIAL FOR ALL. SO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, APPROVING THE AMENDMENTS SUGGESTED, PROCEEDED IN A REAL DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT, WHICH EX-AMBASSADOR LOZANO EITHER COULD NOT OR WOULD NOT DISCERN. TO SPEAK OF BRIBERY-- UNDER WHATEVER INTERPRETATION ONE MIGHT GIVE SUCH A WORD-- IS TO BE COMPLETELY IGNORANT OF THE FACTS, NOT TO SAY TO TWIST

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THEM MALICIOUSLY WITH PREMEDITATED ENDS.

MORNING DAILY LA PRENSA GRAFICA QUOTED REMARKS MADE ON THE CASE BY PRESIDENT ROMERO AS HE SWORE IN HIS NEW PRESS SECRETARY. LOCAL NEWS ITEM PLAYED PAGE 3 SAID THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED REGRET THAT "THERE SHOULD BE INDIVIDUALS MOTIVATED BY PERSONAL DISLIKES WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR POSITION TO ATTACK THOSE WHO HAVE OFFERED THEM HOSPITALITY."

LEAD OF STORY FOLLOWS: "PRESIDENT CARLOS HUMBERTO ROMERO TOLD LOCAL REPORTERS YESTERDAY THAT DECLARATIONS BY EX-U.S. AMBASSADOR IGNACIO E. LOZANO, JR., BEFORE A SENATE COMMITTEE WERE PURELY PERSONAL IN NATURE. PRESIDENT ROMERO REITERATED STATEMENTS BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, LIC. ALVARO ERNESTO MARTINEZ, THAT LOZANO'S TESTIMONY BEFORE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS PURELY PERSONAL, AND THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY HAD SAID THAT THE WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATION HAD NO CONTROL OVER LOZANO'S PERSONAL FEELINGS."

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